

July 18, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Filing. In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket 96-45; and CC Dockets 98-171, 90-571, 92-237, 99-200, 95-116, 98-170

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Alliance for Public Technology (APT) respectfully submits the attached New Millennium Research Council report for the record in the above captioned proceedings. This report, *Consumer Perspectives on Universal Service: Do Americans Lose Under a Connection-Based Approach?* contains six essays from consumer leaders who view the proposed changes to the universal service contribution methodology as detrimental to the low-volume, low-income users the system was designed to help. As the Commission continues its critical work on the reform of universal service, APT believes the information in this report can be a useful resource.

The main thrusts of this report are that a connection-based collection system would force a disproportionate share of the funding burden on low income consumers and the revenue-based model, while needing reform, is still the best method for funding of universal service. The authors in this report agree that to fundamentally alter the contribution methodology would not meet the Telecommunications Act's twin goals of equitable and sufficient funding and ensuring affordable telecommunications services for all Americans.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-263-2972.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Bennett
Policy Director
Alliance for Public Technology